

April 1, 2020

Via E-mail to ade.charterschools@arkansas.gov DESE
& Dr. Bobby Hart bobby.hart@swaec.org Hope Public School District

Re: Letter of Intent to Apply for an Open Enrollment Public Charter School

On behalf of the Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative (SWAEC), we are writing to express our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school in Southwest Arkansas. The charter will be referred to as Inspire Academy Charter and will be located within the boundaries of the Hope Public School District. SWAEC will be the eligible entity applying for the charter, pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 6-23-103(6).

SWAEC supports nine area school districts with professional development, early childhood, special education, and numerous other services. During a strategic planning meeting with our district superintendents, the desire to provide better services to meet the needs of students that have experienced traumatic events and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) was expressed. We began researching and devising a plan to help support our districts.

The goal of establishing an open-enrollment charter school will allow us to help meet this need in our districts. This charter will provide trauma-informed practices to children who have experienced trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Children with high ACEs are vulnerable to academic failure, attendance issues, behavioral problems, and negative life consequences. This, in turn, will lead to economic hardships and poor life outcomes. Our children deserve better!

This school will focus on providing a safe place with trauma-informed teachers and practices, along with a robust curriculum in order to provide academic success for all students. We will work to meet the needs of the whole child, including their physical, emotional and psychological needs. We will also work closely with the family unit to provide services that may be needed in order for the entire home to overcome past adversities. The proposed open-enrollment charter will be a K-12 charter school. In year 1, we will begin with K-3 classrooms. Each classroom will have 12 students with a maximum of 48 students in the first year. We will add a grade with 12 students each subsequent year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. My email is monica.morris@swaec.org or I can be reached at 870.703.5787.

Monica Morris

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